



Gregory J. Nickels
Mayor of Seattle

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Peter DeVries, Chair
Washington State Building Code Council
120 10th Ave. SW
P.O. Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

Dear Mr. DeVries:

The City of Seattle appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on proposed amendments to the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). As I expressed in my July 6 communication, the City of Seattle is strongly supportive of efforts to revise the WSEC to achieve a minimum of a 30 percent reduction in new building energy use compared to the 2006 edition of the WSEC. These targets are consistent with those recommended by Governor Christine Gregoire and the Washington State Climate Action Team. In addition, they are consistent with recommendations from the City of Seattle Green Building Task Force – a group of 50 respected members of our community who helped the city develop policy recommendations to help meet our climate protection and energy conservation goals.

I want to thank the Council and its Technical Advisory Group for its hard work over the past year in developing a number of important improvements to the WSEC. Unfortunately, while these amendments represent a good start, these changes will not achieve the minimum of 30% reduction in building energy use that the Washington State Climate Action Team and Gov. Gregoire have called for. We, therefore, strongly recommend that future revisions of the WSEC call for greater improvements in energy efficiency than are currently being proposed.

The City of Seattle urges the Washington State Building Code Council to adopt current code changes and to continue considering proposals that will result in a minimum of a 30% improvement in energy conservation compared to the 2006 WSEC. Detailed comments on our priorities and recommended revisions to the current review draft will be submitted separately by John Hogan of the Seattle Department of Planning and Development. We appreciate this opportunity to comment and look forward to continuing to work with the Council in the coming years.

Sincerely,

GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle